

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 20 are pending. No claims are allowed and claims 2, 11 and 20 are canceled.

1. The claims have been renumbered to account for the omission of claim 14.

2. Claims 1 to 8 and 10 to 17 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Wackwitz (U.S. Patent No. 1,044,831). Wackwitz describes a storage-battery grid comprising a rectangular-shaped frame having a terminal extension b. Integral ribs c radiate from the terminal extension to an arc-shaped transverse rib d in a fan-like manner. A plurality of short integral radial ribs c² extend from the arc-shaped transverse ribs and the sides of the frame. In Fig. 1, a plurality of arch-shaped transverse ribs e are in concentric circles about the terminal b. However, the arc-shaped transverse ribs appear to be spaced at substantially equal distances from the terminal b to the transverse rib d and from the transverse rib d to the distal perimeter (a² and a³) of the frame.

In that regard, independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to call for the current collector having first and second groups of at least two concentric conductors each. These conductors are concentric about a focal point of the current collector. Further, an outer most one of the at least two concentric conductors of the first group is spaced from the focal point a distance "x". Then, a nearest one of the at least two concentric conductors of

the second group is spaced from the outer most one of the first group by a distance from about 1x to about 10x. Finally, there are no concentric conductors intermediate the first and second groups of concentric conductors.

Simply, Wackwitz's patent showing a battery grid having arc-shaped transverse ribs substantially equally spaced from the focal point does not teach this claimed construction. When arc-shaped ribs are substantially equally spaced in a concentric manner from a focal point to a distal perimeter of the grid frame, there cannot be an intermediate area between first and second sets of concentric conductors separated from each other by the claim 1x to 10X distance. This intermediate area simply does not exist in Wachwitz's storage-battery grid.

Accordingly, amended independent claims 1 and 10 are believed to be patentable over Wackwitz. Claims 3 to 8 and 12 to 17 are allowable as hinging from patentable base claims. Claims 2 and 11 are canceled.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

3. Claims 1 to 6 and 10 to 18 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Duddy (U.S. Patent No. 3,453,145). In Fig. 2, Duddy shows a single grid 20 of radial configuration comprising a lug 22, a grid frame 24 and radial and arc grid conductors 26 and 28, respectively. The arc grid conductors appear to have a spacing beginning at conductor e^1 (as designated by the Examiner) that becomes progressively more closely spaced toward a second concentric grid e^2 . Accordingly, not only is the grid 20 devoid of a first group and a second group of concentric conductors, there is no intermediate

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distance as defined in amended independent claims 1 and 10.

In that regard, amended independent claims 1 and 10 are believed to be patentable over Duddy. Claims 3 to 6 and 12 to 18 are allowable as hinging from patentable base claims. Claims 2 and 11 are canceled.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

4. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duddy as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Bhardwaj et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,566,010). Amended independent claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Duddy. Claim 9 depends from this amended independent claim, and is believed to be patentable for that reason. Bhardwaj et al. is not believed to destroy this patentability.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

5. Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wackwitz as applied to claim 19 above, and further in view of Muffoletto European Patent No. 0 532 313. First, claim 19 has not previously been indicated to be rejected based on Wackwitz. In that respect, the Applicants are proceeding under the assumption the Examiner meant to first reject claims 1 to 8, 10 to 17 and 18 based on Wackwitz. If so, then amended independent claim 18 is patentable over this reference for the same reasons as set forth with respect to amended independent claims 1 and 10 in section 2 above.

In that light, claim 19 is allowable as hinging from a patentable base claim. The newly cited Muffoletto patent does not destroy this. Claim 20 has been canceled.

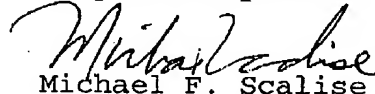
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Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

It is believed that claims 1, 3 to 10 and 12 to 19 are in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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